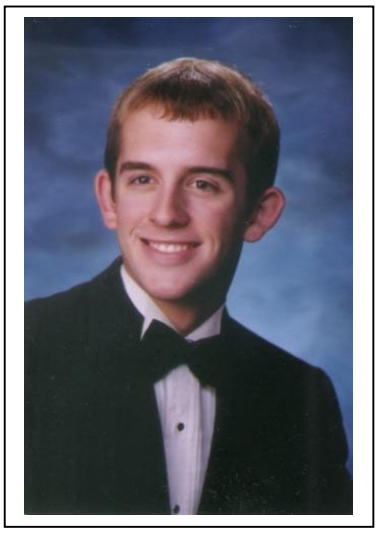
Steven E. Mitchell



University of Maryland
College Park, MD

Mechanical Engineering
Bachelor of Science, May 2005

NASA Academy Research Project:
Preparation of a Spectral Library for Future Exploration of Mars

Principal Investigator: Dr. Ted L. Roush

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Education and Experience:

The grandson of a World War II fighter pilot and the son of a military aviation historian, I have grown up in a world indulged in flight. Unlike my relatives, however, my passion has developed in the world of space, from exploration to study. From weekend trips into Washington, D.C., to visit the National Air & Space Museum, to studying books on the fundamentals of space science, my passion for all things space-related began at an early age.

During my high school years, exposure to the fields of biology and chemistry combined with my instinctive passion for space and sparked an interest in the field of astrobiology. As a student of the University of Maryland, College Park, the knowledge I have acquired as a mechanical engineering major has provoked my interest in space into new areas. After two years of undergraduate study, my thirst for knowledge of space related issues has rejuvenated itself, leading me thousands of miles across the globe to the NASA Ames Academy.

As a student of the University of Maryland, College Park, I find incredible intellectual stimulation on and off campus. As a member of the A. James Clark School of Engineering Honors Program, my involvement in Honors seminars and close interaction with professors have developed my creativity and leadership skills. My involvement in the College Park Scholars Program, from colloquium classes to community projects, has enhanced my communication skills and provided an outlet for volunteer opportunities.

Research has been a key factor in my undergraduate education. In my freshman semester, I researched and developed a solar-powered water boiler. Recently, I have

begun work on a walking micro-robot in the MEMS department. From elements such as design, microfabrication work in the clean room, and testing, my interest in MEMS has become a staple of my undergraduate education and promises to be part of an exciting voyage in the future.

Extracurricular Interests:

Outside of class, I am usually jogging around the Maryland campus or training in the weight room. As a Varsity letterman in ice hockey in high school, I have transmitted my disciplined work ethic from the ice into the gym. I also enjoy strumming my guitar when the occasion arises. I am partial to jazz and the blues, having studied the greats such as Robert Johnson and B.B. King. I also love to attend Maryland athletics events. From our national championship basketball program to the football and lacrosse teams, my interest in sports and school spirit combine in a euphoric state at each athletic contest.

Aside from sports and music, some of my most rewarding activities have taken place in the community. In my freshman year, my College Park Scholars class conducted disability surveys at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. In high school, from teaching children and handicapped adults to swim in a local "Learn to Swim" Program to tutoring in math for the National Honor Society, I valued my participation in the community. And for the past three summers, I have enjoyed serving as a lifeguard and manager of local community pools.

My organizational involvement includes being a member of Pi Tau Sigma, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA).

What's next? After completing my undergraduate education, I hope to gain acceptance into a graduate/doctoral program. I plan to travel around the country, soaking in the different sites and cultures. I eagerly hope to continue my work in the community, lending my talents to benefit and educate others. Most importantly, I hope to develop my academic and leadership talents, be successful in the field of engineering, and pursue a career with NASA.